

TEXTBOOK OF GYNECOLOGY—Second Edition—John I. Brewer, B.S., M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Northwestern University Medical School, Chief of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Passavant Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Ill. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Mount Royal and Guilford Avenues, Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1958. 742 pages, \$15.00.

This second edition of Brewer's gynecologic textbook really represents his third effort, although the first volume in the series was published by a different firm in 1950. The edition of 1953 represented a considerable expansion of the original material, and the present edition is not only a much larger book than the last one but exhibits the material in quite a different sequence.

The first part of the book is concerned with signs, symptoms and complaints of patients, and these items are somewhat artificially grouped into three sections relating to childhood, maturity, and the aging female. The section on childhood contains a lengthy chapter on basic endocrinology and various clinical endocrine problems, contributed by Edwin De Costa, but much of this material has nothing at all to do with children.

The section on maturity deals with the usual problems of adult women—uterine bleeding, vaginal discharge, tumors, infertility, and various sorts of pelvic pain. The material is essentially the same as that of the previous edition. It is pleasing to note that the author now refers to uterine myomas instead of fibroids. Finally, the aging patients are allotted the chapters on vaginal protrusions, urinary incontinence, postmenopausal bleeding, and a few other items of lesser magnitude, although many of the problems mentioned here are by no means found exclusively in the senescent woman.

The second major portion of the book is virtually the same as Part I of the previous edition—a fairly standard coverage of the topics usually found in a gynecologic text, in ascending order, from vulva to ovaries. The chapter on carcinoma of the cervix has been rewritten and greatly expanded, and several pages of references have been added. Similar revision has been afforded the material on endometriosis.

This book was designed for undergraduate teaching, with a view to preparing students for general practice, but it is rapidly becoming too bulky for this purpose. One wonders what has impelled the author to add more than two hundred pages to this new edition and to include great numbers of references which no medical student will ever get around to consulting. While the general plan of this work—a dual presentation of much of the material—is different, to say the least, your reviewer is not certain that he is prepared to recommend this book to students for anything more than supplementary reading. Physicians in general practice may find it of some aid in trying to match symptoms with diagnoses.

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DISTURBED COMMUNICATION—The Clinical Assessment of Normal and Pathological Communicative Behavior—Jurgen Ruesch, M.D., W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., New York, 1957. 337 pages, \$6.00.

As the third of a triad of books concerning communication, this volume attempts a further effort at describing the pathology of mental and emotional diseases in terms of a general framework. Ruesch's interest in communication which led to the production of the previous two volumes seeks to embrace a variety of personality and social disturbances in terms of their effect on communication. The results of poor communication and the therapeutic value of restoring some of these difficulties in the area of interpersonal relationships forms the burden of this volume.

The book opens with an excellent review of source ma-

terial concerning abnormal mental and psychodynamic processes, as well as abnormal growth and development. The communication aspect is added in the second section where both gratifying and frustrating communications are described. This is further elaborated when disturbed communication is divided up into its various components. Particularly well described are the various mechanisms which are used in the feed-back process: in other words, our various responses to the communications of others. There is an excellent discussion of the role of value judgments as disturbing elements in the communication process.

Finally, this is built into the psychopathology of communication difficulties, both in terms of individual psychopathology and the pathology of the social group. The discussion of the individual pathology presents Ruesch's concept of communication as a basis for fundamental personality difficulties. The discussion of group pathology is a well organized presentation of how the disturbed individual reacts to and is reacted upon by the various group situations in which he lives.

The second section of the book is entirely made up of a guide for the use of the previously described material. It consists of a rather elaborate clinical outline to use in the diagnostic process in accordance with Ruesch's tenets. Many people will find it difficult to utilize without a great deal of practice partly because of its unfamiliarity and partly because it is not an ordinary type of clinical approach. However, it presents one further approach to clinical diagnosis in a field that still has a need for simplicity and clarification. Modern psychiatry continues to search for an overall approach to the reactions of the personality and the use of that reaction in interpersonal relations.

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GENERAL DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY OF SKIN DISEASES—Herman Werner Siemens, M.D., Professor of Skin and Venereal Diseases at the University of Leiden, Holland. Translated from the German Edition by Kurt Wiener, M.D., Dermatologist, Mt. Sinai Hospital, St. Michael Hospital, Milwaukee, Wis. The University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago 37, Ill. 324 pages. \$10.00.

The book is divided into two main sections, General Diagnosis and General Principles of Therapy. In the diagnostic section, Doctor Siemens discusses various aspects of the morphology of skin lesions such as the types and variations of the primary and secondary lesions, variations in the shape and distribution of the lesions and the significance of color in diagnosis. A chapter is devoted to a description of the lesions involving the hair and nails, and another chapter is devoted to the interpretation of systemic symptoms.

The book is different from most texts in dermatology. The emphasis is placed on the lesions, how and why they develop into the specific pictures that appear upon the patient's skin. This is in contrast to most texts in dermatology, which treat each disease as a specific entity and which treat the development and pathogenesis of clinical lesions in a hasty and superficial manner.

The second general section on therapy includes sections on vehicles, active ingredients, administration of topical treatment, physical therapy and an excellent chapter on "Therapy and Experience."

The photographs are excellent and display with clarity the points which the author attempts to bring out in the text. The book is written so that the medical student, the practitioner and the dermatologist can all equally comprehend the material easily. The text should broaden the dermatologic perspective of all those who read it, and it is highly recommended as an auxiliary book.

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